

custody, even Haitians with credible asylum claims. According to the Miami Herald, the President's brother, Florida Governor Jeb Bush, says that he was told about this change in policy immediately after it came into effect in December 2001. Yet Governor Bush didn't tell the people that he knew of this policy change until ten days ago!

Two weeks ago, after 211 Haitians arrived at Key Biscayne by boat, I asked Governor Bush to contact the President to ensure that these Haitians receive fair treatment, including fair consideration of their claims for asylum. While the Governor refused my request to contact the President, he said that he shared my belief that Haitians should be treated the same as all other asylum seekers. Just last week at his most recent press conference, the President himself said that procedures were being developed to ensure that Haitians were treated as all others except Cubans.

Apparently, what the President was referring to was a directive from the INS Commissioner announced late last Friday mandating that all persons arriving illegally by sea will be placed in expedited removal proceedings, and during their legal process will remain in detention unless released for humanitarian reasons at the discretion of the INS. What a cruel hoax. The Administration's idea of fairness for Haitians is simply expedited removal, coupled with indefinite detention!

In short, the policy is that Haitians who come to this country seeking asylum are being indefinitely detained by the Bush Administration, even when they demonstrate a credible fear of persecution if they are returned to Haiti. This policy is unfair. It's discriminatory. It's immoral. While the Administration denies that there is any racial element to this policy, the facts are that no group of asylum seekers other than the Haitians is treated this way.

Mr. Speaker, we can do better than this. We must do better than this. Let's give every asylum seeker their day in court and allow an Immigration Judge to decide whether an asylum seeker's release into the community on bond is warranted. I urge all my colleagues to support the Immigration Bond Fairness Act of 2002.

TRIBUTE TO FORT LEWIS MESA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the Fort Lewis Mesa Fire Protection District of Marvel, Colorado for their service and dedication during one of Colorado's most formidable fire seasons. Last summer, the Fire Protection District played an integral role in containing the Missionary Ridge forest fire that burned over 70,000 acres in Southwestern Colorado. Today, I would like to pay tribute to their heroic efforts before this body of Congress and this nation.

When the Missionary Ridge fire first erupted last June, the citizens of Durango, Bayfield and the surrounding communities called upon the Fort Lewis Mesa Fire Protection District to protect their loved ones, homes, and communities from what would become the worst fire

in area history. The fire began in a ditch beside Missionary Ridge Road just 15 miles northeast of Durango and grew to consume more than 70,000 acres, 56 residences, and 27 outbuildings.

Although the Missionary Ridge fire was a devastating reminder of how destructive forest fires can be, it also served to remind us of the men and women who risk their lives to protect their fellow citizens on a daily basis. The Fort Lewis Mesa Fire Protection District has served its citizens and community since 1982 and oversees a 250 square mile region. The district relies upon a personnel of 28 volunteer EMT's and firefighters to remain on call, prepared to fight fires or provide medical assistance on a moment's notice.

Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere admiration that I recognize the Fort Lewis Mesa Fire Protection District of Marvel, Colorado before this body of Congress and this nation. I want to commend the Chief and all of the Fire District's fire fighters for their determination, courage, and resolve during last summer's efforts on Missionary Ridge. Without the help of the Fort Lewis Mesa Fire Protection District and others, the added devastation to our community, environment, and quality of life would have been unimaginable. Their tireless commitment throughout the fire season has served as an inspiration to us all and it is an honor to represent such an outstanding group of Americans in this Congress.

THE POEM "I AM A VETERAN"

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share with you the words of Rabbi Paul Swerdlow, one of my constituents. Rabbi Swerdlow's poem "I Am a Veteran" conveys his love for his country. I am most grateful for his dedicated service to securing our freedom.

I AM A VETERAN

I am a veteran.

I shivered that cold winter in Valley Forge
And rejoiced at the glorious surrender at
Yorktown.

I wept at the flames that engulfed Wash-
ington

And said "never again."

I wore blue and bled red.

I wore gray and bled red.

The blood I spilled was to reunite a nation
Of the people, by the people and for the peo-
ple

I am a veteran.

I was at Little Big Horn and I prayed;

I was at Wounded Knee and I prayed;

I prayed that one day the old Americans

And the new Americans would be one people.

I was there to charge up the hill at San
Juan;

Knowing that my country was emerging

Beyond its borders.

I was prepared to make the world safe for de-
mocracy.

Young and idealistic, I came to France

To turn back the hordes in this war to end
all wars.

I am a veteran.

It was with disbelief that I became

A part of the day which will live in infamy.

Once more I said goodbye to those I loved

To protect my country.

Across the vast desert I met the enemy.
I met him on island after island.
I kept my promise to return.
I met him on the beaches of Normandy.
I repelled him from the gates of Bastogne.
I freed thousands from the shadow of death.
I am a veteran.

A small nation cried out for help
And I came because others had been there for
me.

A nation was saved.

I felt the agony of defeat in the jungles of a
distant land.

BUT I held my head high

When another people cried out,

I again put on my uniform to save them from
tyranny.

Today I remain ready to pledge my life,

My property, my sacred honor,

Until there will be peace and freedom on
earth

For everyone, everywhere.

I am a veteran.

THANKING MR. HENRY (BUD) COL- LINS FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement at the end of this year, we rise to thank Mr. Henry (Bud) Collins for his outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives over the past 27 years.

Over the years, Bud has made significant improvements to the Voice and Data Network programs of the U.S. House of Representatives. He began his career with the House on December 10, 1973, and has served this great institution in numerous capacities, most notably in House Information Resources (HIR) Communications positions within the Chief Administrative Officer. During the past three years, Bud has served as the Communications Infrastructure Team Leader. In this position, he has directed voice and data wiring installations to every entity of the House, Architect of the Capitol, and Congressional Budget Office. Bud's breadth of knowledge of the wiring standards and the House building construction has enabled rapid, effective wiring installations. These installations were fundamental in improving the information flow for Member and Committee operations.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Bud for his many years of dedication, and his outstanding contributions to the communications and wiring infrastructure installations for the House. We wish Bud and his wife Harriet many wonderful years in fulfilling their retirement dreams.

IN MEMORY OF CHANG-LIN TIEN

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chang-Lin Tien for his lifetime of distinguished public service. He was a tireless community activist and educational leader for more than 40 years. As Chancellor of the University of